

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated in the marked-up version of the listing of claims presented below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, wherein the first and second rotatable members include first and second wheels, respectively.
3. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, wherein each of the first and second rotatable members engages the same tray.
4. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, wherein the at least one tray comprises a plurality of nested trays in a vertical column having an uppermost tray and a lowest tray.
5. (Original) The storage device of Claim 4, wherein the lowest tray of the plurality of nested trays is supported by the first and second rotatable members.
6. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, wherein the first and second rotatable members include teeth extending from their respective outer surfaces, the teeth engaging a lip on the tray.

7. (Original) The storage device of Claim 6, wherein the at least one tray includes a stack of nested trays having an uppermost tray and a lowest tray, and wherein the lowest tray is supported by the teeth of the first and second rotatable members.

8. (Original) The storage device of Claim 6, wherein the teeth are configured with a tapered shape.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) A storage device for storing trays, comprising:
a first rotatable member;
a second rotatable member positioned opposite the first rotatable member, the first and second rotatable members adapted to selectively support at least one tray therebetween; and
at least one transfer mechanism including a lifter, the same lifter being movable relative to the tray to both selectively insert and remove the tray between the first and second rotatable members.

11. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 10, ~~further comprising at least one suction device coupled to~~ wherein the transfer mechanism includes at least one suction device, the at least one suction device being engageable with a bottom surface of the tray to cling to the tray.

12. (Original) The storage device of Claim 11, wherein the at least one suction device utilizes a source of vacuum to assist the at least one suction device in clinging onto the bottom surface of the tray.

13. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, further comprising at least one motor driving the first and second rotatable members.

14. (Original) The storage device of Claim 13, further comprising a gearbox coupling the at least one motor and the rotatable members.

15. (Original) The storage device of Claim 14, wherein the gearbox drives the first and second rotatable members in opposite directions at substantially the same speed.

16. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, wherein the first rotatable member is driven by a first motor, and the second rotatable member is driven by a second motor.

17. (Original) The storage device of Claim 16, further comprising a controller operable to drive the first motor and the second motor.

18. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, wherein the first and second rotatable members are driven in opposite directions at substantially the same speed.

19. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 10, ~~further comprising a~~
wherein the transfer mechanism is configured for transferring a tray from a transfer position to a
storage position.

20. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, further comprising a conveyor
configured to transport the tray to and from the transfer position.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The storage device of Claim 20,~~ A storage device for storing trays, comprising:

a first rotatable member;

a second rotatable member positioned opposite the first rotatable member, the first and second rotatable members adapted to selectively support at least one tray therebetween;

at least one transfer mechanism movable relative to the tray to selectively insert and remove the tray between the first and second rotatable members, the transfer mechanism configured for transferring the tray from a transfer position to a storage position; and

a conveyor configured to transport the tray to and from the transfer position;

wherein the transfer mechanism includes at least one tine movable through the conveyor, the at least one tine engaging the tray located at the transfer position and moving the tray to the storage position.

22. (Original) The storage device of Claim 21, further comprising at least one suction device coupled to the tine, the at least one suction device being engageable with a bottom surface of the tray to cling to the tray.

23. (Original) The storage device of Claim 22, wherein the at least one suction device utilizes a source of vacuum to assist the at least one suction device in clinging onto the bottom surface of the tray.

24. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, wherein the transfer mechanism elevates the tray from the transfer position to the storage position.

25. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, wherein the first and second rotatable members receive therebetween successive trays from the transfer mechanism, and wherein the rotatable members store the successive trays in a nested configuration in the storage position.

26. (Previously presented) The storage device of Claim 10, further comprising a shroud substantially covering the first rotatable member, the second rotatable member, and the at least one tray supported by the rotatable members.

27. (Previously presented) A method for storing trays, comprising:
transporting a first tray to a transfer position;
lifting the first tray from the transfer position to a storage position;
supporting the first tray in the storage position by two opposed rotatable
members; and
lowering the first tray from the storage position to the transfer position.
28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
transporting a second tray to the transfer position;
lifting the second tray from the transfer position to the storage position; and
nesting the first and second trays.
29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising:
supporting the second tray in the storage position by the two rotatable members;
and
lowering the second tray from the storage position to the transfer position.
30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein lifting the first tray
includes:
elevating the first tray from the transfer position; and
driving the two opposing rotatable members in opposite directions to engage and
elevate the first tray to the storage position.
31. (Cancelled).